



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 10, 2005

H.R. 1483 **Celebrating America's Heritage Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on September 26, 2007*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1483 would establish six national heritage areas (NHAs), which are nonfederal lands and communities managed privately in conjunction with the National Park System. For each of the new areas, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million annually, up to \$15 million over 15 years. In addition, the bill would increase the ceiling on authorizations of appropriations for nine existing NHAs.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the National Park Service (NPS) would spend \$6 million in 2008 and \$46 million over the 2008-2012 period to implement H.R. 1483. An additional \$60 million would be spent after 2012. Enacting H.R. 1483 would have no significant effect on revenues or direct spending.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1483 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Spending for Proposed NHAs					
Estimated Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	6
Estimated Outlays	6	6	6	6	6
Spending for Existing NHAs					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	3	4	4	5
Estimated Outlays	0	3	4	4	5
Total Spending Under H.R. 1483					
Estimated Authorization Level	6	9	10	10	11
Estimated Outlays	6	9	10	10	11

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1483 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2008 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. The NPS would use such appropriations to provide technical and financial assistance to the managing entities of the NHAs, which are usually local nonprofit organizations. Historically, the NPS has received appropriations of between \$8 million and \$14 million a year for that purpose.

Spending for Proposed NHAs

The authorization levels in the table include \$1 million annually for each of the six NHAs that would be established by the bill:

- Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA in Maryland and Virginia;
- Niagara Falls NHA in New York;
- Muscle Shoals NHA in Alabama;
- Freedom's Way NHA in Massachusetts and New Hampshire;

- Abraham Lincoln NHA in Illinois; and
- Santa Cruz Valley NHA in Arizona.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the NPS would spend \$6 million in 2008 and \$30 million over the 2008-2012 period to assist the NHAs with planning and development. We estimate that \$60 million would be spent for this purpose after 2012.

Spending for Existing NHAs

The bill would raise, from \$10 million to \$15 million, the authorization ceiling for nine NHAs that were established in 1996. Under this provision, the nine NHAs would be eligible to receive additional payments of up to \$1 million annually after they have reached the existing ceiling. The affected areas, and their aggregate appropriations to date, include:

- America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership (\$5.1 million);
- Augusta Canal NHA (\$4.7 million);
- Essex NHA (\$9.3 million);
- Hudson River Valley NHA (\$6 million);
- National Coal Heritage Area (\$1.9 million);
- Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Canalway (\$9.4 million);
- Rivers of Steel NHA (\$9.4 million);
- South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (\$7.9 million); and
- Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area (\$2.1 million).

Based on appropriations to date and assuming appropriation of the additional amounts authorized by the bill for each area after it reaches the existing ceiling, CBO estimates that implementing this aspect of H.R. 1483 would cost \$16 million over the 2008-2012 period. We expect that three of the NHAs would begin receiving the additional funding in 2009. That number would increase to five by 2012. As under existing law, authority for funding

for those nine areas would expire after fiscal year 2012; therefore, no additional amounts would be spent after that period under the legislation.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1483 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES

CBO has transmitted cost estimates during the 110th Congress for several bills that would establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA (see S. 289 and H.R. 319), the Niagara Falls NHA (see S. 800 and H.R. 713), and the Abraham Lincoln NHA (see S. 955). The estimated costs of those bills were the same as those for the similar provisions in H.R. 1483.

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